

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 10377 221655Z

67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 AID-05 ACDA-05 /090 W  
----- 086465

R 221247Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4027

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

/COMIDEASTFOR

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10377

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MMOL, MU, IR, IT

SUBJ: ITALIAN AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON IRANIAN NAVAL ACTION  
IN OMAN

REF: TEHRAN 10307

1. IN OCTOBER 21 DISCUSSION OF RECENT DHOFAR FIGHTING, ITALIAN  
AMBASSADOR COTTAFABI TOLD POLCOUNS HE HAD IT FROM "HARD"  
SOURCE THAT DURING EARLY SEPTEMBER VISIT TO IRAN (TEHRAN 8695)  
SULTAN QABUS HAD ASKED AND RECEIVED SHAH'S AGREEMENT TO USE  
IRANIAN NAVAL FORCES IN COMBINED OPERATIONS WEST OF RAKHYUT.  
COTTAFABI WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THESE OPERATIONS BECAUSE  
VOSPER-CLASS SHIPS WHICH TOOK PART WERE EQUIPPED WITH ITALIAN SEA  
KILLER SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES AND RAPID FIRE GUN. IN  
RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION WHETHER THEY HAD BEEN USED IN BOMBARDMENT  
OF CAVES WEST OF RAKHUT, POLCOUNS STATED THAT ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT  
HAVE COMPLETE STORY OF ACTION HE THOUGHT OTHER WEAPONS SUCH AS  
5 INCH 38'S CARRIED BY PARTICIPATING SHIPS WOULD BE MORE  
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APPROPRIATE FOR SHORE BOMBARDMENT.

2. COTTAFVI SAID ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY WAS SO HARD UP FOR FUNDS THAT IT HAD DECLARED SEA UILLER OPERATIONAL AFTER ONLY TWO TEST LAUNCHES AND HAD THEN SOLD IT TO IRANIAN NAVY. HUNDRED OR MORE PRACTICE FIRINGS BY IRANIANS HAD SUBSEQUENTLY PROVED IT TO BE GOOD WEAPON, HE ADDED WRYLY.  
MIKLOS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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